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I am writing because I have serious concerns regarding the proposed rail corridor for potentially shipping nuclear waste to the Yucca Mountain repository. There are major issues with the alignment, construction, and operation of this rail line, and I do not think they have been thought through or addressed in any serious way.

This corridor will not solve many of the problems associated with the repository. This is just one more bad step in an entirely ill-advised plan. This rail corridor should be scrapped along with the entire project.

My main concern would be the impact on potential wilderness in the Caliente area. There is the possibility of several hundred thousand acres in eastern Nevada to gain wilderness protection---protection those areas absolutely deserve. Is it wise or responsible to run a nuclear train through these areas? Absolutely not. And I would stand completely opposed to any attempt to build rail lines through any lands which have wilderness potential, which is a large portion of the proposed corridor. There are several Wilderness Study Areas which would have to be avoided entirely. Thus it makes more sense just to leave the entire area alone.

This rail line would not be the only corridor through which nuclear waste would travel into the state. Major population centers will be used for transporting waste, including Las Vegas and Reno---economically it would not make sense to re-route everything so it came through this one tiny corner of Nevada. Will everything from the Pacific coast swing through this area? No.

This proposal makes no sense, economically or morally. Let it and Yucca Mountain die the deaths they justly deserve, and keep our wild lands wild.

William Huggins
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